Véronyck Fontaine, Secretary General,

Ministère de la Sécurité publique,

Tour des Laurentides, 5e étage,

2525, boulevard Laurier,

Québec (Québec)

G1V 2L2

Dear Madam Secretary General,

Subject: [An Act to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regard to dogs.](http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=1&file=103888.pdf)

As a citizen and a responsible dog owner, I would like to add my voice to that of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and request proposed amendments to the draft legislation. It is essential that canine specialist groups be heard and that they have an opportunity to propose amendments.

The Canadian Kennel Club strongly supports appropriate dangerous dog legislation that serves to protect the citizens of Quebec and target irresponsible dog owners, in addition to public education, awareness programs, stronger enforcement of exiting bylaws and stiffer penalties.

However, the proposed draft legislation does not account for dogs who participate in Canadian Kennel Club shows, trials and tests. The draft legislation requires that all dogs must be on a leash, and all dogs 20kg or more must wear a harness or halter and leash when in public places (Article 20). This restriction would conflict with thousands of dogs competing in CKC events as dogs are not permitted to wear a harness or halter during competition and many of our performance and field events feature off-leash elements.

In addition to the above point of concern, we believe that the following points require further review as there is the potential for unintended consequences:

1. A veterinarian will be obligated to declare a dog bite, with no provisions around circumstances or severity of the incident including if a peaceful dog or puppy is provoked to the point of biting (Article 2).
2. Municipalities have full discretion to nominate an examiner (veterinarian) of their choice (Article 5). There is currently no official certification for canine behavior assessment. Many veterinarians may not be aware of certain breed specific traits, as described by the breed standard. In some breeds, certain body language may be perceived as aggressive although they are not. The draft Legislation also provides that the local municipality order that the dog be euthanized or prohibits the owner or custodian from owning a dog, should the dog be declared potentially dangerous.
3. The requirement for proof of vaccination and spay/neutering before 6 months of age for the dog to be registered is unclear/imprecise (Article 17). There are no provisions for those who would like to keep their dogs intact or those who wish wait until full physical maturity to spay or neuter their dogs. Some responsible breeders co-own or place dogs in families and have plan to use these dogs in their future breeding program.
4. There is excessive power given to the inspectors who would have rights to enter private properties should they believe a dog is on the premises (Article 26-27). In addition to excessive power, there is no requirement that these inspectors be trained on how to best approach dogs of all breeds.

I personally support this position. I also hope the Canadian Kennel Club, *the* canine authority in Canada and representative of 18,000 members and over 600 Breed Clubs, with over 3000 official CKC events annually, will have the opportunity to provide further input to amend this draft legislation.

Sincerely,

<<Insert Name/Signature>>